proven merit as independently assessed on a uniform and standardised criteria. With this change, Regional Offices will be able to concentrate more on academic supervision and thereby bring qualitative improvement in academic standards.

Foreign Visit of Officials of Delhi University

1167. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether top officials of the Delhi University visited Japan recently at the cost of exchequer, as reported in the The Statesman of 6th January, 1999;

(b) if so, the names of officials of the University who visited Japan/abroad during the last one year at Government's cost, the purpose of such visits and total expenditure incurred on them;

(c) whether Government propose to fix responsibility in such wasteful visits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir. The top officials of the University of Delhi visited Japan on the invitation of the Soka University, Japan to sign an Academic Exchange Programme with them. The entire expenditure on this visit was borne by the Soka University, Japan.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Dilapidated Condition of Prem Chand's House

1171. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the house, in which the celebrated writer Prem Chand lived and wrote, is lying in utter neglect in his village and his successors have knocked all possible doors for its suitable upkeep;

(b) whether they have also approached the Sahitya Akademi; and

(c) whether there is any likelihood of the Union Government taking it over as a national monument?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The matter has been taken up with the State Govt. of Uttar Pradesh for ascertaining the status of the ancestral home of Munshi Prem Chand and the steps taken by them for preserving the same.

दिल्ली नगर निगम के प्राथमिक विद्यालयों में मध्याह्न भोजन योजना

1172. श्री ईश दत्त यादव:
प्रो॰ रामगोपाल यादव:

क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) दिल्ली नगर निगम के कितने प्राथमिक विद्यालयों में मध्याह्न का भोजन दिया जा रहा था, इससे कितने छात्र लाभान्वित होते थे, उस पर प्रतिदिन कुल कितना खर्च आता था और केन्द्र सरकार उसमें कितनी सहायता देती थी;

(ख) उक्त मध्याह्न भोजन की व्यवस्था कब और किसके आदेश पर बन्द कर दी गई;

(ग) क्या सरकार अपने स्तर पर मध्याह्न भोजन की व्यवस्था फिर से शुरू करने का प्रयास करेगी और इस संबंध में राज्य सरकारों को सहायता भी देगी; और

(घ) क्या किसी राज्य सरकार ने मध्याह्न भोजन योजना के स्थान पर किसी अन्य योजना का सुझाव दिया है और इस मामले में सरकार से सहायता मांगी है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (डा॰ मुरली मनोहर जोशी): (क) दिल्ली नगर निगम (एम॰सी॰डी॰) द्वारा प्रस्तुत सूचना के अनुसार वर्तमान समय में मध्याह्न भोजन की योजना में दिल्ली नगर निगम के 1800 स्कूल और 8.5 लाख प्राथमिक स्कूलों के बच्चे शामिल हैं। औसत दैनिक व्यय 14 लाख रु॰ से 17 लाख रु॰ के बीच है। केन्द्र सरकार भारतीय रु

निगम के माध्यम से राज्यों को निःशुल्क खाद्यान्न की आपूर्ति करती है। योजना की शुरूआत से दिल्ली प्रशासन द्वारा कुल 21594 मैट्रिक टन खाद्यान्न उठाए गए।

(ख) और (ग) उठाए गए खाद्यान्न के आंकड़ों के मिलान और भारतीय खाद्य निगम को निधियां नहीं प्रदान किए जाने से संबंधित समस्याओं के कारण जुलाई से सितम्बर, 1998 की अवधि के दौरान सभी राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को खाद्यान्न की आपूर्ति अस्थायी रूप से रोक दी गई थी। भारतीय खाद्य निगम के बकायों के भुगतान के बाद अक्तूबर, 1998 से खाद्यान्न की आपूर्ति शुरू कर दी गई है।

(घ) जी, नहीं।

Indian's participation in Sydney Olympics

1173. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India would participate in the coming Sydney Olympics;

(b) the games in which India plans to participate; and

(c) whether preparations have been started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPTT. OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS, WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based upon probability of winning medals, India is likely to participate in Athletics, Boxing, Hockey (Men & Women), Shooting, Tennis and Weightlifting (Women).

(c) Yes, Sir. In order to prepare Indian Teams, the Government have taken following Steps:—

(i) National Sports Federations have been requested to draw up a detailed Long Term Development Plan (LTDP) incorporating requirement for promotion of sports. This is being reviewed closely. As per agreed programme all National Sports Federations will be given assistance for improving the standard of sportspersons/teams.

(ii) The Federations have also been asked to hold National level tournaments for Sub-Juniors, Juniors and Seniors. The Federations are also given grants for equipment, foreign exposures and holding National and International tournaments. Foreign Coaches have also been provided to the National Sports Federations in selected disciplines to improve the standards. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) holds regular coaching camps for selected teams and athlets.

(iii) A Scheme for assisting Promising Sportspersons and Supporting Personnel has been recently formulated under which outstanding sportspersons can be given financial assistance upto Rs. 5.00 lakhs for getting themselves trained in India or abroad for improving their excellence in sports.

(iv) A National Sports Development Fund has also been set up with an initial contribution of Rs. 2.00 crores by the Government for the promotion and development of sports in country.

(v) The encourage sportspersons, Government has also increased the prize money substantially for the medal winners in international sports events.

Reserved teaching posts

1174. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI SHIBU SOREN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: